(c) whether Maharashtra and Karnataka are llikely to sit on 16 lakh odd tones of onions, the coming season, leaving farmers high and dry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) Apprehensions of China overtaking India in onions export do not appear to be well founded since the quality of the onions produced by the two countries is not comparable.

(b) The data on production of onions over the past three years shows a fluctuating trend;

year	Qty. (Lakh MT)
1999-2002	49,00,000
2000-01	47,21,000 (estimated)
2001-02	54,84,000 (estimated)*

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation.

*Source: NHRDC

The policy of export of onions is governed by the twin considerations of ensuring steady supply in the domestic market and or maximizing exports.

(c) The estimated production of onions in Maharashtra and Kamataka is around 16 lakh M. Tons of which the domestic consumption is around 50%. In addition, a substantial portion of the onion production of the two States is exported.

Agri-exports from Andhra Pradesh

4255. DR. DASARINARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority (APEDA) has assisted the exporters of Andhra Pradesh in trading and exporting agro products from the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what measures APEDA has taken to boost agri-export from Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (c) APEDA is assisting

exporters of agro products including those from Andhra Pradesh through various schemes such as assistance for specialised transport vehicle, pre and post harvest management techniques, participating in International trade fairs, arranging buyer seller meet etc. In addition, two Agri Exports Zones in Andhra Pradesh—one for Mango Pulp and Vegetables and the other for Mango and Grapes have been approved.

Exports to Russia

† 4256. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the commodities exported by India to Russia during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government are considering to export more and more commodities to Russia; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The main commodities exported by India to Russia during the years 1998-1999, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, *inter-alia,* include RMG Cotton including accessories, Tea, Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and Fine Chemicals, Cotton Yam, Fabrics, made ups, Coffee, RMG manmade fibres, RMG Wool, Tobacco, processed minerals, leather goods, electronic goods, and machinery and instruments etc.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. To enhance India's exports to Russia, Government has taken a number of steps which include promotion of dialogue at the highest level, constant review through the Joint Commission/Working Group/Sub-Group mechanism, promoting direct business contacts through exchange of delegations, Joint Business Councils, holding of exhibitions, participation in fairs etc.

Imposition of non-tariff barrier by Bangladesh

4257. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lodged a strong protest with Bangladesh for not allowing sugar rakes over rail-route;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.